THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) While the broad contours of the National Health Policy still hold good, with the passage of time new concerns have emerged as a result of epidemiological and demographic transition requiring a revision of the Policy.

(b) National Health Family Survey-II (1998-99) has estimated the prevalence of malnutrition as 47% in children below 3 years.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Valuable suggestions on various fundamental determinants such as financial resources, equity, role of States, private sector and human resource development were received during the Seventh Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare. Other issues like decentralisation, women's health, urban health, non-health determinants like provision of safe drinking water, basic sanitation, adequate nutrition cleaner environment, manpower deployment in remote areas were also discussed.

Draft of the new National Health Policy is currently under finalisation. Thereafter, this would be circulated to State/UTs, Central Ministries and NGOs for comments and finally placed before the Cabinet for approval.

Sub-Plan for minorities in Tenth Plan

*485. SHRI MOHD. AZAM KHAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has received any proposal to accommodate a Sub-plan for minorities in Tenth Five Year Plan with allocation of funds for economic, educational and social uplift of minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which her Ministry proposes to proceed further in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MATIMANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The President, Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind has proposed allocation of funds for a Sub-plan in the Tenth Five Year Plan for the welfare of Minorities by the Planning Commission.

(c) The proposal submitted by Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind is being considered in consultation with the Planning Commission.